

SAVE INDIA FROM FASCISM



Congress Kit: Hijab Rights are Human Rights

Requesting a meeting with your elected leaders

- Just pick up the phone and call them requesting for an appointment.
- Here is where you can find their contact information: congress.gov/contact-us
- They prefer meetings in this order: donors, organizations, and constituents
- If you don't hear a response just show up in their district office to talk and set up time
- We can help you set up the time as well. Just email: hijab@JusticeForAll.org
- Make sure you leave your name/cell, as well as ask for the staffer's name and direct number
- Note that Republicans give more importance to Religious Freedom as Democrats give more important to women's rights and human rights.

A sample letter to request a meeting if you plan to write

Subject: meeting request with <insert the name of congressperson/senator> about religious freedom in India

Dear Honorable <insert title and full name>

If you individually or as a group are an Indian American use this paragraph otherwise replace with the suitable alternative:

We are Indian-American constituents who have a grave concern for our families in India. They are fearful of traveling, venturing out, or going to school or a mosque.

Recently an Indian state ordered banning Muslim girl students from wearing the hijab. Other states have announced that they will do the same. Hijab has always been a part of education and Indian lives without any problems. This just a latest attack by the current Indian government which has forced

Amnesty International out of India. It has banned Mother Teresa charity funding from the USA and have passed laws revoking citizenship of Muslim Indians.

We cherish religious freedoms and human rights. Our leaders always speak up on the rights of Afghan women.



**Whenever I
am scared I say
Allahu Akbar
and it gives me
courage
BBC**

Muskan Khan
The 19 Year old
student blocked
from school by anti-
Muslim Nazis

JusticeForAll.org/hijab

We would like to brief you about the situation and request your help in engaging the administration to uphold hijab rights as human rights.

We request a meeting with the congressperson/senator as soon as we can. If you can communicate with me with respect to scheduling, and how we can meet, I will appreciate it very much.

Look forward to hearing back from you.

<insert full name>

<title if any>

<your phone and email>

Preparations Before the meeting:

- Read up your elected leader's bio in detail.
- Read up what committees they serve one.
- Check out the resolution they have sponsored.
- Find points to appreciate them.
- See what they have been tweeting about.
- Check how much time you have and keep to time
- Take notes of what you plan to talk about. If it is a group meeting, always pick up a leader who will begin first and then name the next person to speak.
- Divide up the talking points so no one repeats it.
- Do not take more than a couple of minutes to say what you want to share.
- Prepare questions for them to ask. More they talk better for us.
- Prepare to take notes on pen and paper. Avoid electronics for note.

Talking Points:

- Thank her/him first for her time
- Mutual introduction and exchange of business cards
- Talking Points
 - I would like to thank you for <add anything positive they have done in your eyes>
 - I am your constituent. I love to see you in our mosque/neighborhood sometime.
 - I have a family in India. If no family, say I read about denial of education to Muslim girls in India. I observe scarf and I appreciate freedom of religion in our country. If you don't, you can say although I don't observe hijab, but freedom of religion is a human rights
 - Appreciate freedom of religion in our country where girls with hijabs are able to study and women with hijab serve all over the country
 - Indian government and judiciary is silent as Muslim girls are banned from entering schools in a state. When they try militias and thugs stop them while police does not protect these girls. Now other states are planning this ban.
 - Rising fascism in India is making the lives of minorities difficult since killers of Gandhi are celebrated in today's India and Hitler's book is used a business school text book.
 - We are thankful our country's leaders speak about the rights of Afghan women.

Asks:

- We would like you to issue a statement that Hijab rights are human rights.
- Write a personal letter to Wendy Sherman the US Deputy Secretary of State to talk to her counterpart in India to allow Muslim girls with hijab to study in the government schools
- If she is a part of women caucus (wcpinst.org) ask her to persuade women caucus to adopt a resolution for the rights of Muslim girls with hijab or without hijab for hindrance education. This is what Malala Yusufzai the Nobel laureate advocates
- Call the US Ambassador at Large for Religious Freedom to take a firm stand for human rights everywhere including for Muslim women in India

Questions to ask at the End of the Meeting:

- What do you think of our asks. Can you do that.
- When can I expect to hear back from you?
- How can I follow up with you?

Concluding the Meeting:

- Thank them for their time.
- Once again ask her/him to visit your masjid (if your masjid is on board)
- Give them a letter which includes your asks. We can custom develop that letter for you to put on your letterhead if it is an organization. Email: hijab@JusticeForAll.org We are providing a sample here in case you want to prepare for it.

Follow Up

- Send us notes of your meeting and any follow up. We may then request you to get 10-20 calls delivered to that person from the same constituency
- We will work with you on following it up. Follow up is the mother of all things when it comes to getting things done through your representatives

Leave-Behind Letter.

You can send this to the staffer who facilitated your call after the meeting. Use organizational letterhead if meeting as an organization or a mosque or an interfaith group

<Date of meeting>

The Honorable <Name of lawmaker>

<Address>

Subject: Request to take action the subversion of religious freedom and human rights in India

We would like to express our thanks to the congressperson and the staff for meeting with us on this important issue. We are impacted by this. Our relatives, and friends, back in India, are facing the onslaught brought about by Modi's Nazi-inspired policies directly. The non-allowance of hijab in classrooms is not about so-called

uniformity, it has to do with narrowing the spaces for Muslims in the countries institutions. Nevertheless, it is a matter of utmost importance which must be resolved now, by allowing these students free access to their class while wearing the hijab.

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedoms has recognized the degradation in India, its democracy, and its institutions over the last couple of years. Due to this degradation, India was recommended as a Country of Particular Concern for two years in a row. It is disappointing that the State Dept. has chosen not to accept the recommendation for both these years. The more we coddle Modi, we actually coddle Nazism, since Modi is leading India down the path that Nazi's had taken in Germany.

Recognizing the dangers in India, the prestigious organization, Genocide Watch has released two Genocide Alerts for India, as well as a Genocide Emergency. By their estimation, India is at stage 8 of the genocide pyramid, just one step before mass-extirmination. The world had promised "Never Again" after the horrors of the holocaust, and we must not fail the Indian Muslims, as we failed in many other instances in recent history.

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Thank you

<Your signature>

<Email & cell>

<Address>

<Other names of attendees>